

RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK CARE AND MANAGEMENT IN DISTRICT FAISALABAD

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Pakistani women actively participate in livestock management activities, along with their normal domestic chores. The study was designed to measure the position and contribution of rural women, their constraints in livestock management activities and mainly how the rural women contribute for development in the district Faisalabad. It was envisioned that women participation in livestock activities have rarely been investigated. A multistage random sampling technique was used to collect the data from Tehsil Summandry of the district selected at random. Two union councils were taken by using simple random sampling technique. Four Chak (village) from each union council were selected at random and fifteen woman were further selected randomly from each selected chak. The results show that a vast majority of women were illiterate, having annual family income one to two lac. They are living in joint family system. Their main occupation is agriculture and they spend long hours in whole livestock related activities to support their families. A large proportion of the respondents reported that they had to face problems and constraints in livestock activities in the context of decision making, medication, awareness, training along with social and economic issues. Analysis indicated that education level of women, income of household, age were significantly associated with level of participation. Women participation in livestock activities increased production and they were involved in income generating activities for better economic conditions of their families.

Keywords: Women, Participation, Livestock, Management, Rural Development

INTRODUCTION

The livestock sector plays a very important role in the economy of Pakistan. The Livestock sector of Pakistan provides many employment opportunities to the livestock producers in the rural areas of Punjab and other areas of Pakistan (Ijaz, 1993). The Management and care of the livestock sector consists in the following functions, i.e. foddering, feeding, skilling, milk-processing, housing, bathing, dealing of cattle shade and diseases control of the animals. In the countryside areas, majority of the house-wives are thought to be occupied in the care and in the livestock management sector (Saeed, 1995). Most of rural people own livestock which provides a higher share of household income to poor and landless families especially for women (Miller, 2001). Livestock accounts for 55 percent of agriculture value addition. Its share in agriculture is much more than combined shares of all other sub-sectors of agriculture. Its share in GDP is 11.9 percent. It has also emerged as a major source of income for the small farmers as well as the landless rural people (Govt. of Pakistan, 2013). Livestock sector needs stronger institutional support for more credit and upgrading women's livestock farming skills.

The role of women in Pakistan's rural setup is significant, especially in livestock management activities. Most of the livestock comprises of buffaloes, cattle, sheep and goats which are tended by womenfolk. Women's working hours

are longer than their male partners (Ashwini, 2002). Most of the livestock activities are incomplete without the assistance of women. In fact there is a large overlap between production and reproduction and tasks performed by women often support men's work and thus adds to household's income generation (UNICEF, 2008). Female have been playing conspicuous role in livestock activities. All activities take more than 8 hours daily (Amin *et al.*, 2010). Mostly women livestock care takers keep only a few animals at domestic level. Women role in livestock production is varied depending upon mode of animal raising and ecosystem (Jamali, 2009). There are a number of constraints for women in livestock sector such as lack of credit facilities, insufficient technology demonstration, inadequate knowledge of farmers about livestock care and management, lack of periodical training, less printed material and high cost of technology (Kumervel, 2006). Mostly diseases are caused due to poor management practices, lack of vaccination and awareness, improper treatment (Mishra *et al.*, 2008). Women empowerment in livestock is a global perspective, women sweeps more share of livestock employment than men. Eventually, in the developing country this share is on much more higher side. In general women involved in livestock are poor in decision-making (GEP, 2007).

In the study women population from rural areas, that were working in livestock activities for the fulfillment of their

economic needs, was investigated for their level of participation in all livestock activities and its impact on their economic development in the rural areas. The research project has an intention to inspect all the livestock care and management activities performed by women and their role in improving life of their family and also to inspect the resistances faced by them in this act and their suggestions for its improvements.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Rural area of district Faisalabad was selected as a universe of the present study. The total sample size was consisted of 120 respondents. The data were collected through multistage sampling technique. One rural town, namely Samundry, was selected at random, two Union Councils (UC # 113 & UC # 114) selected randomly from the town. Four villages from each Union Council (Chak No. 51, 52, 220, 228 GB from UC (Union Council)# 113 and Chak No. 134, 135, 137, 138 GB from UC # 114) were selected through convenient sampling technique and 15 female respondents from each village were selected for the data collection. The collected information was analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 16.0. To explore the study objective a well-designed interview schedule was used for the data collection. Interview schedule consisted of a set of questions which were asked from the respondents by the interviewers in a face to face situation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 reveals that 5.0 percent of the respondents were belonging to the age group of 15-30 and the same percentage to age group of 61 above, on the other hand 46.7

percent of the respondents were in age group of 41-50 that is maximum value in this regard.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their age

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
15-30	6	5.0
31-40	32	26.7
41-50	56	46.7
51-60	20	16.6
61 Above	6	5.0
Total	120	100.0

Table 2: Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	57	47.5
Business	11	9.2
Government Job	11	9.2
Private Job	1	0.8
Labour	8	6.7
Agriculture + Business	10	8.3
Agriculture + Govt. Job	8	6.7
Agriculture + Private Job	3	2.5
Agriculture + Labour	1	0.8
Business + Private Job	10	8.3
Total	120	100.0

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their education

Education	Frequency	Percentage
No education	48	40.0
Primary	30	25.0
Middle	12	10.0
Matric	20	16.6
Above Matric	10	8.4
Total	120	100.0

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according their family and children

Family	Joint		Nuclear		Total	
Children	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
No	4	3.3	0	0	4	3.3
1	1	0.8	0	0	1	0.8
2	20	16.7	5	4.1	25	20.8
3	27	22.5	23	19.2	50	41.7
4	10	8.3	12	10.0	22	18.3
5	5	4.2	5	4.2	10	8.4
6	3	2.5	5	4.2	8	6.7
Total	70	58.3	50	41.7	120	100.0

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to keep of animals

Animal	Frequency	Percentage	Keep at place	Frequency	Percentage
Buffalo	22	18.3	On farm	16	13.3
Cow	2	1.6			
Sheep	2	1.6			
Goat	3	2.6	In Courtyard	101	84.2
Buffalo + Cow + Sheep + Goat	34	28.3			
Buffalo + Cow + Goat	10	8.4			
Buffalo + Sheep + Goat	10	8.4	If other	3	2.5
Buffalo + Goat	26	21.6			
Cow + Sheep + Goat	11	9.2			
Total	120	100.0		120	100.0

Table 6: Distribution of the respondents according they helped from whom and spend hours in a day in livestock management

		Frequency	Percentage
Help in management	Spouse	80	66.7
	Parents	34	28.3
	Children	6	5.0
	Total	120	100
Spend Hours in a day	4	16	13.3
	6	35	29.2
	8	39	32.5
	10	30	25.0
	Total	120	100

Table 2 indicates that 47.5 percent of the respondents were belonged to occupation of only agriculture that is at the top, 0.8 percent employed Private Job and same percent engaged in agriculture plus labour.

Education is also an important socioeconomic variable. More educated people have more knowledge about the livestock care and management. Table 3 shows that 40 percent of the respondents were illiterate and 60.0 percent of the respondents were literate, from which 25.0 percent had up to primary level of education and 8.4 percent had above matric level of education.

Table 4 indicates the distribution of the children according to the type of family of the respondents. During the survey it was found that 3.3 percent of the respondents did not have any children and all of them belong to the joint families. Only 22.5 percent of the joint families have 3 children, whereas 19.2 percent of the nuclear families also have 3 children.

Table 5 reveals that 28.3 percent had buffalo, cow, sheep, goat and 1.6 percent had only cow, same percent had only sheep. On the other hand out of all respondents 84.2 percent of respondent keep animals in courtyard, 2.5 percent of the respondent keep animals in other ways (gave other people for look after).

Table 6 reveals that 66.7 percent of the respondents are helped by their spouse and 5.0 percent of the respondents

are helped by their children in the livestock management. Out of total respondents 32.5 percent of the respondents spent about eight hours in a day in livestock activities and 13.3 percent of the respondents spent about four hours in a day in livestock activities.

Table 7 shows that 79.2 percent of the respondents participated to support the family to great extent, 55.0 percent to utilize free time not at all, 71.7 percent to fulfill food requirements to great extent, 55.9 percent being force by circumstances to great extent, 70.8 percent participated as family's occupation to some extent.

Table 8 shows that 55.8 percent of the respondents had source of television to some extent, 71.7 percent had not at all source of radio, 50.8 percent had source of Newspaper to some extent, 40.0 percent had source of pamphlets to some extent, 56.7 percent had not at all source of seminars, 79.2 percent had not at all source of kisan Mela and 95.0 percent of the respondents had not at all any other source.

Table 9 shows that 54.2 percent of the respondents faced vaccination/ medication problem in livestock management to great extent, 49.2 percent faced information/ awareness problem to some extent, 65.8 percent faced loans/ dearness problem to great extent, 57.5 percent faced training/ services problem to great extent, 33.3 percent faced illiteracy problem to great extent and 48.4 percent of the respondents faced social/ religious problem in livestock management to some extent.

Table 10 shows that 54.2 percent of the respondents suggested to increase education opportunities for females for their effective participation in livestock management to great extent, 60.8 percent suggested by reducing dearness, 47.5 percent by interest free loans, 37.5 percent by availability of training and information access, 51.6 percent by empowering them in family decision making, 30.0 percent by establishing livestock projects specially for women and 40.8 percent suggested by encouragement of their work by family.

Table 11 Chi-square value (9.49) shows a significant association between education of the respondents and their

Table 7: Distribution of the respondents according their participation reasons

Participation reasons	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Support family	95	79.2	6	5.0	19	15.8
Utilize time	30	25.0	24	20.0	66	55
Food requirement	86	71.7	31	25.8	3	2.5
Circumstances force	67	55.9	49	40.8	4	3.3
Family occupation	32	26.7	85	70.8	3	2.5
Other reason	73	60.8	17	14.2	30	25.0

Table 8: Distribution of the respondents according their source of information

Information source	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Television	48	40.0	67	55.8	5	4.2
Radio	27	22.5	7	5.8	86	71.7
Newspaper	48	40.0	61	50.8	11	9.2
Pamphlets	45	37.5	48	40.0	27	22.5
Seminars	15	12.5	37	30.8	68	56.7
Kisan Mala	4	3.3	21	17.5	95	79.2
Any other	2	1.7	4	3.3	114	95.0

Table 9: Distribution of the respondents according to their problems in livestock management faced by them

Problems	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Vaccination/ Medication	65	54.2	43	35.8	12	10.0
Information/ Awareness	48	40.0	59	49.2	13	10.8
Loans/ Dearness	79	65.8	35	29.2	6	5.0
Training/ Services	69	57.5	42	35.0	9	7.5
Illiteracy	48	40.0	31	25.8	41	34.2
Social/ Religious	26	21.6	58	48.4	36	30.0

Table 10: Distribution of the respondents according to their ideas for improvement of women participation in livestock management

Suggestions	To great extent		To some extent		Not at all	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Education opportunities	84	70.0	27	22.5	9	7.5
Reduce dearness	73	60.8	44	36.7	3	2.5
Interest free loans	57	47.5	39	32.5	24	20.0
Training & information availability	45	37.5	39	32.5	36	30.0
Increase decision making role	62	51.6	48	40.0	10	8.4
Projects for women	36	30.0	29	24.2	55	45.8
Encouragement by family	49	40.8	39	32.5	32	26.7

Table 11: Association between education of the respondents, and their participation in livestock management activities

Education of the respondents	Participation in livestock management activities		
	Low	Medium	High
Illiterate	8.3%	13.3%	18.3%
Primary-Middle	4.2%	5.0%	25.8%
Matric and above	4.2%	4.2%	16.7%
Total	16.7%	22.5%	60.8%
Chi-square = 9.49	P-value = .051*		Gamma = .272
			P-value = .046*

* = Significant (at 5% level of significance)

participation in livestock management activities. Gamma value shows a positive relationship between the variables. Above table shows that illiterate respondents had high (18.3%) participation, while primary-middle passed respondents had high (25.8%) participation and matric and above educated respondents had high (16.7%) level participation in livestock management activities.

CONCLUSION

Women participation in livestock activities increased production and income generating activities. It was also concluded that illiteracy, lack of awareness, resources and technological complexity are limiting factors in livestock care and management. They were restricted in the use of livestock care and management technologies due to time shortage, social customs, limited resources. However government should provide small loans to purchase animals. Prices of livestock inputs should be controlled and arrange regular training programs for female and livestock extension field staff to bridge the information gap for livestock development.

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